

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 A-01 CPR-01 OPR-02 SY-05
/093 W

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P R 151508Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7282
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST UNN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALMEM
USMISSION SINAI

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 5227

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (BEGIN, MENAHEM), IS, US
SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF BEGIN VISIT

1. ALREADY HEAVY PRESS TREATMENT OF BEGIN'S FORTHCOMING
WASHINGTON VISIT INTENSIFIED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S
DEPARTURE THIS MORNING. ALL PAPERS SHARED IN WISHING
HIM WELL BUT THE MEDIA DIVIDED ALONG PARTY LINES IN
PREDICTING SUCCESS. THE OPPOSITION PAPERS (AL HAMISHMAR
AND DAVAR) WERE SKEPTICAL. THE AFTERNOON DAILIES AND
THE JERUSALEM POST WERE MORE HOPEFUL. THE LATTER
EDITORIALIZED THAT BEGIN, "UNDETERRED BY HIS OWN
PROTESTATIONS THAT PEACE TALKS CAN BE CONDUCTED ONLY
FACE TO FACE BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAELIS," WILL ATTEMPT
TO SECURE AS MUCH U.S. BACKING FOR ISRAEL'S POSITION AS
POSSIBLE. THIS INCLUDES "GENUINE" PEACE AND A
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CONCEPTION OF FRONTIERS THAT THE POST REALIZES
IS DIFFERENT FROM THE U.S. POSITION--A GAP THAT
THE POST HOPES WILL BE NARROWER THAN
SUSPECTED.

2. COMMENT AND EDITORIALS HAVE BEEN MORE
SPECULATIVE THAN USUAL, REFLECTING THE TIGHT-

LIPPED POLICY OF THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT. THE RESULT WAS SOMEWHAT CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT THE PROPOSALS BEGIN IS BRINGING WITH HIM. THUS, WRITING IN THE JULY 13 DAVAR, BLOCH MAINTAINED THAT BEGIN WILL DISCUSS IDEAS CONCERNING ADDITIONAL INTERIM AGREEMENTS AS A FALLBACK SHOULD AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT BE REJECTED BY THE ARABS. ON THE SAME DAY MATTI GOLAN WROTE IN HAARETZ THAT BEGIN WILL INFORM THE PRESIDENT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS NOT PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE INTERIM AGREEMENTS BUT INSTEAD REGARDS A FINAL PEACE AS THE SOLE OBJECTIVE TOWARD WHICH NO EFFORT SHOULD BE SPARED.

3. THE FOLLOWING DAY GOLAN PRESENTED ONE OF THE MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF BEGIN'S "PEACE PLAN" NOTWITHSTANDING RECENT (AND APPROVING) REFERENCES IN THE PRESS TO THE ABSENCE OF LEAKS. ACCORDING TO GOLAN, BEGIN'S PLAN WOULD MAINTAIN THE TERRITORIAL STATUS QUO ON THE WEST BANK AND RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH SETTLEMENTS IN THE AREA WHILE RESTRICTING THE IDF TO THE JORDAN VALLEY. THE PLAN EXPRESSES READINESS FOR SIGNIFICANT WITHDRAWALS IN SINAI, LEAVING, HOWEVER, THE GAZA STRIP AND RAFAH APPROACHES UNDER ISRAELI CONTROL. IT ALSO SUGGESTS THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATING A LEASE FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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SHARM-ASH-SHAYKH.

4. IN RECENT DAYS THE PRESS HAS INCREASINGLY REFLECTED THE CONVICTION THAT THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WITH BEGIN. AS AN EXAMPLE, WRITING IN TODAY'S YEDIOT AHARONOT, ZIMUKI SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL SEEK TO ESTABLISH AN INFRASTRUCTURE OF MUTUAL TRUST BETWEEN HIMSELF AND BEGIN AND WILL BEND EVERY EFFORT TO AVOID A CLASH OR A BREAK WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. HAARETZ'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MARCUS SEES THE U.S. INTENT TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AS A RECENT REVERSAL OF POLICY. "THE ADMINISTRATION SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT WITHOUT ISRAEL...THE U.S. WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO GIVE TO THE ARABS. AND SO, AS HAS ALREADY APPEARED SEVERAL TIMES SINCE CARTER CAME INTO OFFICE, THE PILOT ORDERED A CHANGE OF COURSE." ASSERTING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS PAINTED HIMSELF INTO A CORNER BY AROUSING DANGEROUS HOPES AMONG THE ARABS AND PLACING HIMSELF UNDER AN UNREALISTIC TIME-TABLE, MARCUS BELIEVES IT IS BEGIN'S TASK

TO HELP CARTER "EXTRICATE HIMSELF FROM THE
IMBROGLIO OF URGINGS AND EXPECTATIONS HE HIMSELF
HAS CREATED, WITHOUT MAKING A QUARREL OUT OF IT
AND WITHOUT TURNING HIM INTO AN ENEMY."
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Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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